

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of

Yasuhiro SAKAI et al.

Serial No.:

Filed:

For: Method of Staining, and Detecting and Counting  
Bacteria, and a Diluent for Bacterial Stain

Examiner: F. C. Prats  
Group Art: 1651

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.